

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated September 11, 2006 and the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 2-21. This amendment is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kadota et al. (USPN 5,459,328).

In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the current drive device control circuit includes: (1) a plurality of bypass circuits (BP) parallely connected to each of said plurality of the serially connected current drive devices, and (2) a plurality of current detection sensors (BS) for detecting any of a bypass current flowing in each of the plurality of the bypass circuits (BP) and a drive current flowing in each of said plurality of the current drive devices, such that wherein each of the plurality of the bypass circuits controls a bypass current flowing in the respective circuit thereof and the drive currents of the current drive devices corresponding to the bypass circuits whose bypass currents are controlled.

Kadota et al. '328 teaches a plurality of light emitting elements (LD) and a plurality of bypass circuits with bypass current control elements (T). However, Kadota et al. '328 fails to teach the "plurality of current detection means" which detect the bypass current flowing in the bypass circuits. Instead, Kadota et al. '328 teaches the use of photo diodes (PD) that detect the optical power emitted from each light emitting element (LD). The optical power control circuits (ARC) are supplied with the power level detected by the photo diodes (PD) and a reference potential (REF). The optical power control circuits (ARC) then control the bypass


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current control elements (LD). Kadota et al. '328 lacks any means to detect the current in the bypass circuits.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 defines the invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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